

St. Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | 601 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444

StStephenSchoolSF.org | 401 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco 94132 | School 415 664-8331

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 p.m. or by appt. and 30 min. before each Sunday Mass

Weekday Mass: 8:00 a.m. Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

January 15, 2023

St. Stephen Parish Presents Culinary Culture 2023

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Live Flamenco entertainment
Authentic Tapas and Paellas

Saturday, January 21, 2023

6:00 - 9:00 pm

St. Stephen Donworth Hall

\$60 Adult / \$25 Child under 14 * \$ 400 - Table for 8

Tickets available at the Parish Center & online

For more information call:

415-681-2444

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic Community that is called by God to follow Jesus Christ. We believe that we are called to worship God together, to lead God's people along the path of hope laid down by Jesus, to share his message through preaching, through the education and formation of our people, young and old, and through caring service and sensitive outreach to those in need.

Rev. Michael D Liliedahl

Rev. Mi-

January 15, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Anyone here **who has ever been** a part of a pickup basketball, football or baseball game as a youth and was not overly athletic knows the anguish of hoping and praying not to be the last one chosen. Now, on the other hand, if the boss was looking for someone to take on a large project that would involve a lot of time and energy, our hope and prayer might be the opposite – stare at the ground and try to become invisible.

In our three readings today, first the prophet was called, and then Paul, and finally, Jesus was called. There was no staring at the ground in hopes of being overlooked – no worries they would be the last one tapped to be God’s servant. In each case, the invitation to service was boldly embraced.



So, today, let us talk about each of us being chosen to be God’s servant. Is this a welcomed call? In an ideal situation we would all say “yes” – yes this is a welcomed call. But on this side of heaven, we do not live in an ideal world, so our answer to the invitation to be God’s servant may cause us to hesitate in boldly saying “yes.” This is quite normal and understandable given all the demands placed upon our time. There are, after all, only 24 hours in a day, right?

It is important here to remember that Isaiah dealt with hardheaded people, and Paul started out persecuting Christians before he became one. Jesus was tempted in the desert and agonized in the garden before he accomplished the Father’s will. We are in good company with our hesitations and difficulties. While we might hesitate for what we think are good reasons, as believers, as followers of Jesus, we can never excuse ourselves from our responsibility to be God’s servants.

Being God’s servant does not necessarily mean running to the nearest seminary, convent or monastery to become a religious or ordained minister of the Church. Although those are indeed good things! What it does mean is seriously reflecting on how God is calling each of us to be his servants.

Yes, some are being called from among our number here to serve the Church as priests, sisters or brothers. Many more are called to marriage. And apart from those vocations, and no matter our state in life, we are all called to holiness.

Let there be no mistake. By virtue of our baptism, we have been called to be servants of the Lord. There are no excuses or exemptions from this call. Our task, therefore, is to live out the call to serve, by growing in faith and holiness. According to the catechism, Christians are “sanctified … [and] called to be saints” (CCC 1695). Nurses serve, accountants serve, maintenance staff serve, parents serve. Our “job” does not preclude, or improve, the opportunity to serve. As long as we have the love of Christ alive and well within us, then we will be good and faithful servants. .



LITURGY AND LIFE

- As you pray the Our Father, how do you perceive the words “thy will be done”?
- How do you allow God’s light to be reflected in you?
- What role does humility play in your life?

Our Saint of the Week - St. Sebastian

Sebastian was the son of a nobleman who was a Christian. He joined the Roman army in the year 283 and kept his Christian beliefs secret so he could be a spy in the army.

Some Christians who knew the truth about Sebastian brought a woman named Zoe to him. She had lost the power of speech. Sebastian prayed with her and she quickly recovered. As a result, many people who knew her became Christian. Around the same time, Emperor Diocletian promoted Sebastian to be guard of the Praetorian Guard, a regimen that acted as the emperor’s own bodyguard. Diocletian hated all Christians and had no idea someone in his trusted office was leading a double life. Some time later, the authorities discovered Zoe and some of her friends were Christians. They were arrested and sentenced to death.



It was too much for Sebastian. He went to see the emperor and announced he was a Christian too. Diocletian was furious. He ordered that Sebastian be put to death in a terrible way. Sebastian was stripped and tied to a tree. His fellow officers used him as a target for archery practice, and arrow after and arrow were shot into him. A Christian woman named Irene came to rescue his body and was amazed to discover that Sebastian was still alive. She cared for his many wounds and nursed him back to health.

As soon as he recovered, Sebastian went and hid in a passageway and approached Diocletian as he walked by. Sebastian told him what he thought of his cruelty.

Diocletian was shocked to see him alive and said nothing. But as soon as he recovered, he ordered Sebastian to be put to death. This time Sebastian was beaten to death with heavy clubs and his body was thrown into one of the city’s sewers.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Jan 16

8:00 a.m.

† Jim Murphy
(By: Alcock Family)

Tuesday, Jan 17

8:00 a.m.

† Jorge Illenberger
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

Wednesday, Jan 18

8:00 a.m.

† Lei Anne Cagalingan
(By: Philip, Joy & Cedrick)

Thursday, Jan 19

8:00 a.m.

† Fil Da Cunha
(By: Philomena Cardoza)

Friday, Jan 20

8:00 a.m.

† Russ Kiernan
(By: Friend)

Saturday, Jan 21

8:00 a.m.

Katrina Abbott Sp. Int.
(By: Tina & Walter Jordan)

† Denis O'Connor
(By: Rose O'Connor)

Sunday, Jan 22

8:00 a.m.

† Paul McGloin
(By: Maria Guadalupe Chase)

St. Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

† Betty Santiago
(By: Joe & Josie Fernandes)

† Apolinario Reyes
(By: Liberty Mungcal)



May he rest in peace
James T. Brady

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The glory of the Lord shows through Israel, a light to all nations, that salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (*Isaiah 49:3, 5-6*).

Psalm — I am here to do as you ask, O Lord (*Psalm 40*).

Second Reading — All those who call upon the name of the Lord are called to be holy (*1 Corinthians 1:1-3*).

Gospel — John the Baptist testifies: The one who comes after me, on whom the Spirit comes down and remains, is the Son of God (*John 1:29-34*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday	: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday	: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday	: St. Anthony
Wednesday	: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
Thursday	: Julian Calendar Theophany (Epiphany)
Friday	: St. Fabian; : St. Sebastian
Saturday	: St. Agnes

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50+ Club

Monday, February 6, 2023

Donworth Hall, Doors Open 12:30pm

New members are most welcome!

For any questions/ concerns, please call:

Helga at 415-731-8211

Stewardship: A Way of Life

\$ 21,251.73 Sunday Collections (12/4,11,18,25)

\$ 9,883.00 Online Sunday Collections (12/1-31)

\$ 12,942.85 Donworth Hall Ave Monthly Rental

\$ 44,077.58 Total Income for December 2022

LESS:

\$ 53,737.00 Parish Maintenance for December

\$ 9,659.42 Over / UNDER

Thank you for your generous donations!

Please note that we had a Windfall Income (Christmas Collection) of \$18,926 which covered the negative income for the month.

Please continue to generously support our Parish!

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



January 15, 2023

I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Isaiah 49:6b

Sick Relatives & Friends

Please pray for the sick and homebound of our community and for all those written in our book of the sick. May they know the healing touch of Jesus.

Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor Plondaya, Marie Bachand, Francis Yiu, Edna Amora, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, James T. Brady, Michelle Weeks, Rev Bill McCain, Franz Tittiger, Carlota Plondaya, Robert Liam, Marino Tulao, Eden Finn, Edileide Jose Barbosa, Kenneth Fambrini, Larry Barbiere, Carol Dominguez, Marc Gutierrez, Catherine Scosseria, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera, Jovita & Richard Thompson.



FAMILY CONNECTION

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

Background of the Gospel Reading

Gospel Reading

John 1:29-34

John testifies that Jesus is the Lamb of God, God's own Son.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives. *Loyola Press*

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START WITH GRATITUDE

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse. —Henry Van Dyke

WHO is your SHEPHERD?

The TV is my Shepherd,
I shall not want
It makes me lie down on the sofa.
It leads me away from the Faith,
it destroys my soul.



It leads me to the path of sex and violence for the advertiser's sake.
Even though I walk in the shadow of Christian responsibilities,
there will be no interruption, for the TV is with me.
Its cable and remote control, they comfort me.

It prepares a commercial for me in the midst of my worldliness,
and anoints my head with secular humanism and consumerism.

My covetousness runs over;
surely ignorance and laziness shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of wretchedness watching TV forever.

A 19th century English carol, Christina Rosetti's *A Christmas Carol*, which begins, "In the bleak midwinter." The carol sums up, in its last stanza, the nature of "giving to the Christ Child."



*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I could give a Lamb.
If I were a wise man, I could do my part.
What I can I give Him? Give Him my heart!"*

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer to Begin the Day
Lord God, may everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help, so that all of our work today will bring us closer to you.

Guide us in our work today, that we may do it not for ourselves alone, but for the common good of all.

We ask this in your name. Amen.

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For more information, ext. 7 or
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regarding the hourly rate available for our parishioners.



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Culinary Culture 2023**

A Taste of Spain

**Live Flamenco entertainment
Authentic Tapas and Paellas**

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**\$60 Adult / \$25 Child under 14 * \$ 400 - Table for 8
Tickets available at the Parish Center & online**

**For more information call:
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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The symbols and actions of baptism evolved around the experience of adults dying to old patterns of life and rising from the waters of baptism as new creations. As for newborn babies, at first it was desired to wait until the following Easter, when they could be baptized, anointed with chrism, and given a taste of the Eucharist in association with adults. The Church was always willing to baptize adults in emergency situations outside the Easter timetable, and in time, since infancy itself was a life-threatening situation, the baptism of babies became commonplace. As with the "emergency" adult baptisms, it was required that parents bring the child, as soon as health was recovered, to the bishop for the full menu of sacraments.

The very real fear of death for infants thus created a situation in which the three sacraments drifted apart from each other, and away from their original, adult celebration at Easter. Today, at last, we know a great deal about how our practices evolved. This knowledge is reshaping how we celebrate Easter, how we receive adult faith, and how we structure the faith journey of children.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear;
so do one's faults when one speaks.

As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace,
so in tribulation is the test of the just.

The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had;
so too does one's speech disclose the bent of
one's mind.

Praise no one before he speaks,
for it is then that people are tested.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH : *Calendars*

Perhaps you noticed that this year we didn't celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after Epiphany (today), but instead on last Monday, the day after Epiphany. Why the shift? It all has to do with regional calendars. Within certain general boundaries, every national conference of bishops is able to set its own liturgical calendar according to how it is felt to benefit the people in that region most. So, for example, the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated January 6 on the Church's universal calendar. But the bishops of the United States decided that, for the benefit of the faithful, it would be better for Epiphany to be celebrated on a Sunday every year. So here in the States we see Epiphany's date vary from January 2 to January 8. The biggest problem this presents is that the Baptism of the Lord, which is normally celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany, would push back the whole liturgical calendar by a week on the years when the Sunday celebration of the Epiphany falls on January 7 or 8, putting the U.S. out of sync with the rest of the Catholic world at least until Lent. To avoid that scenario, the U. S. bishops decreed that in those years the Baptism of the Lord would fall on the Monday after Epiphany, leaving the rest of the calendar intact.

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OUR STRATEGIC GOAL

As a Church, we now move into Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" comes from the Latin root for "order," which is why we line the Sundays up on the calendar and count them—with "ordinal" numbers—one by one. The orderly way we proceed through the liturgical year reminds us that our faith offers a strategic goal for our lives: eternal happiness with God, who is love. Today's readings share stories of believers who order their daily activities toward the goal of sharing God's love. Isaiah embraces his role as God's servant and works to bring glory not only to Israel, but to the entire world. In a similar way, Saint Paul identifies himself as Christ's witness in the world

Forgiveness is not something we do for other people. We do it for ourselves to get well and move on.

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This Week's Humor

I study Theology

The rich businessman Raymond goes to meet his new son-in-law to be, Ben. He says to Ben, "So, tell me Ben, my boy, what you do?" "I study the Theology," he replies. "But Ben, you are going to marry my daughter! How are you going to feed and house her?" "No problem," says Ben, "I study Theology, and it says God will provide." "But you will have children! How will you educate them?" asks Raymond. "No problem," says Ben, "I study Theology, and it says God will provide." When Raymond returns home, his wife anxiously asks him what Ben is like. "Well," says Raymond, "he's a lovely boy. I only just met him, and he already thinks I'm God."



How did you get here?

Marriage Counselor: So, what brings you here today?

Wife: He takes everything literally. I can't stand it.

Husband: My Truck.

Burnt Dinner

My husband cooks for me like I'm a god—by placing burnt offerings before me every night.

Takes two to get Married

I just read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?

Forgiveness is not something we do for other people. We do it for ourselves to get well and move on.

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SERIOUSLY, JOHN, YOU NEED TO DITCH THAT CAMEL HAIR AND TRY SHEEP

01-02-21



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Priest in Residence

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ST STEPHEN PARISH 2022-2023

ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY CONTACT PERSON

- Altar Servers Giovanna Hrvatin
- Altar Society Joan Leehane
- Bridge Group Virginia Stefanelli
- Caritas Nellie Hizon
- Church Hospitality Mary Molly Mullaney
- Communion Ministers Mary Molly Mullaney
- Faith Formation Mary Molly Mullaney
- Fifty Plus Club Helga D'Arcy
- Finance Council Laura Birsinger
- Front Ofc Lead Volunteer Fely Boquiren
- Grief Support Clergy
- Head Sacristan Ed Quan
- Lectors Mary Molly Mullaney
- Liturgy Committee Fr. Michael Liliedahl
- Marriage Preparation Clergy
- Men's Club Martin Murphy
- Parish Council Vicky Francisco
- RCIA Mary Molly Mullaney
- St. Stephen Book Club Mary Molly Mullaney
- Ushers Jim Scheg
- Women's Guild Naomi Kelly

Parish Office Phone 415.681.2444

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us!

You can **sign up** or **update** your information by completing this form & placing it in the collection basket, by mailing it to the Parish Office, by phone at 415-681-2444 or at www.saintstephensf.org

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Complete Mailing Address _____ City/Zip _____

Weekly Sunday envelopes , circle one: Yes No, but commit to participate thru Online Giving.

I am interested in assisting the Parish in an organization or ministry as (Please encircle your choice/s):

Acolyte/Altar Service, Altar Society, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Greeter/Usher, Hospitality after Mass/Special Events, Holy Communion Ministers to the Homebound, Music/Choir, Lector &/or Holy Communion Ministers, Parish Center Front Office Volunteer.

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